



WMF News

WMF is a section of the Simon Stevin Centrum
Edition 2 of 2011

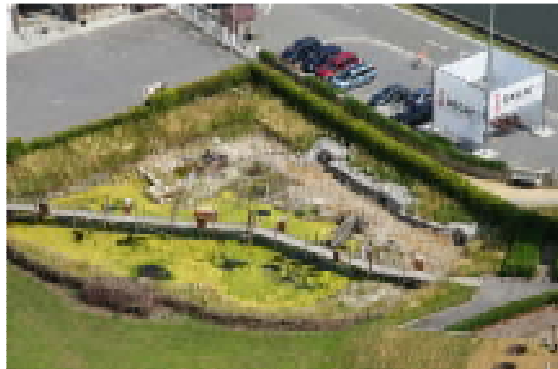
Composed by Frank PHILIPPART

Dear reader,
I invite you to send me small items and articles suitable for this newsletter. I would appreciate this.

SPOTLIGHT ON A MUSEUM

The "IJzertoren" at Diksmuide

This museum in the 85 m high tower with 22 stores of information looked promising. The scope of the museum is "War - peace - Flemish Emancipation". You start at the roof of the tower from which the view is splendid! The focus of the museum lies on the political situation in Flanders and on conflicts in the world. Lots of panels to read and lots of illusions, less artifacts. If you go there for World War I it's boring and you have to wait to the lowest stores which become interesting. Here you see a nice reconstruction of a dugout. Another interesting floor is the one about the animals at the front. Next to the tower there's a reconstruction of an inundation of front of the Yzer complete with shelters and "explosions".



The tower is daily accessible. From January to March and from October to December from 0900Hr - 1700Hr (on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 1000 Hr - 1700 Hr)
From April to September from 0900Hr - 1800Hr (on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 1000 Hr - 1800 Hr)
The museum is closed on 24, 25, 26, 31 Dec and on 1 and 2 Jan and for three weeks from 9 Jan to 29 Jan 2012

Info at Phone 32 (0)51.50.02.86. Email : info@ijzertoren.org
Website : www.ijzertoren.org

WESTWALL

What should be in the bunker?

When you see a bunker you check out which armament was installed and how many men were in the bunker. But did you ever thought about the supplies that needed to be in the bunker?
Thanks to Mr Axel Jungmann, curator of the bunker 114a (6 embrasures turret) at Beckingen, I can publish such a list. (For the description of the bunker, see WMF-News 2001-1).



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Ammunition

About the ammunition stock for bunkers with a six loop holes machine gun copula.
The minimum stock of ammunition with the putting into use was determined by army regulation HDv g90 (Heeresdienstvorschrift).

For the machineguns in the copula

74250 shots. These were not all the same bullets.

62425 shots sS (schwere Spitzgeschosse) (outer jacket with inner core of lead)

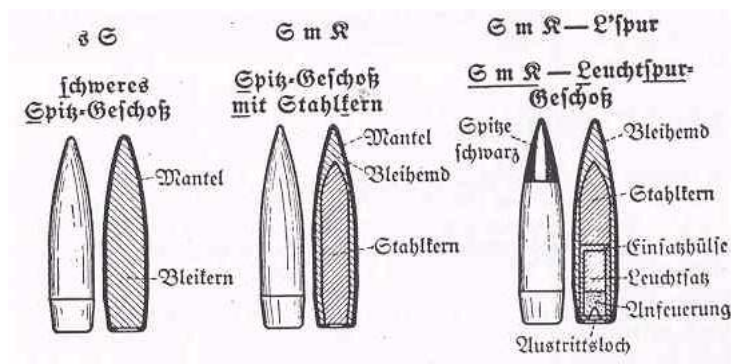
8250 shots SmK (Spitzgeschos) (outer jacket with inner core of steal embedded in a lead filling)

3575 shots SmKL (spitzgeschos mit Kern und Leuchtspur) (tracing bullet)

200 shots SmK (H) (Sondermunition) (special ammunition)

There were always 5000 shot ready for action.

A picture declares better than thousand words what the difference is between these kind of bullets. Source : <http://www.lexikon-der-wehrmacht.de/Waffen/gewehre.htm>



For the machinegun of the entrance defence

40500 shots. These were split up by :

34500 shots sS (outer jacket with inner core of lead)

4500 shots SmK (outer jacket with inner core of steal embedded in a lead filling)

1500 shots SmKL (tracing bullet)

200 shots SmK (H) (special ammunition)

Submachine gun for entrance defence (if available)

4608 shots

For each rifle (K-98)

290 shots

For each pistol (P08)

42 shots

Signal ammunition

10 shots red

10 shots green





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10 smoke shots

Hand grenades
300

Food supplies

A provision of food belonged to the installation of a Westwall bunker. But this might only be used when there was no other supply line possible. Moreover from the moment it was possible again, the supplies must be made complete again. Next to that, a supply for 60 days had to be available in a nearby depot.

For all the bunker the default was a 7 days stock.

Such an emergency ration per head was composed as follows :

- 7 portions milk tins, each 850 gr.
- 7 portions durable bread, each 500 gr.
- 7 portions evening meal, composed as :
 - 2 portions melting cheese
 - 2 portions fish in tins (bloaters (kind of herring)), each 150 gr
 - 2 portions sausage in tins
 - 1 portion pork, each 200 gr
- 7 portions coffee, each 80 gr
- 7 portions tea, each 3 gr
- 7 portions sugar, each 80 gr
- 7 portions salt, each 15 gr
- 7 portions lemon powder, each 5 gr
- 7 bottles still water



Normal supplies were delivered in food crates that contained food for 2 men for 7 days.

These crates were marked with red and blue stripes depending if it was breakfast or dinner being cheese or corned beef.

Following the packing list these crates contained :

Portions are per man and per day.

Portions per man and per day

1. Lunch

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 6 boxes with beef tins of 400 gr (or 3 tins of 850 gr) | 400 gr |
| 8 boxes with milk tins of 850 gr | 850 gr |

2. Diner and Lunch

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 2 boxes with sausage tins of 400 gr (or one tin of 850 gr) | 130 gr |
| 1 box bloaters of 220 g | 110 gr |

Crate with blue stripes

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1 box corned beef of 900 gr (or 1 box beef of 850 gr) | 130 gr |
|--|--------|

Small cupboards for medical equipment and food rations.





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Crate with red stripes

| | |
|---|--------|
| 1 box melting cheese of 875 gr | 125 gr |
| 2 boxes with bucher's lard tins of 765 gr | 100 gr |
| 1120 gr sugar | 80 gr |
| 210 gr salt | 15 gr |
| 42 gr tea | 3 gr |
| 14 boxes chocolate of 100 gr | 100 gr |

3. Bread

| | |
|---|--------|
| 8 packages of Knackebrot of 125 gr (kind of toast) | 100 gr |
|---|--------|

4. Equipment

- 2 sets of folding cookers
- 1 petrol stove

The bread supply seemed to be for only one day. The remaining 6 daily rations (Knackebrot or biscuits) were stored in food crates without stripes.



The bunker stove WT80K



The cultivation of cabage or crops at a Kriegsmarine site at the Belgian coast.

The men in the bunkers were also regularly supplied by the civilians with more or less extras. Officially such supplies were forbidden and even punishable but under the other hand these were even encouraged! Obviously field kitchens supplied the men with warm meals and beverages.

In reality the soldiers "enriched" their rations what they could find, buy and receive in the neighbourhood.

The soldiers could also barbecue a chicken or a hare which was a

welcome break in the classic rations. It's known that the soldiers of the Atlantic wall cultivated vegetables near their bunkers.

Thanks to Yvonne Mayo for the spell check.

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